



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koji SHIMIZU

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 09/941,679

Examiner: M. Trinh

Filed: August 30, 2001

Docket No.: 110490

For: SUCTION NOZZLE, METHOD OF DETECTING HOLD POSITION OF ELECTRIC COMPONENT, METHODS OF DETECTING BENDING AND ANGULAR POSITION OF SUCTION PIPE, AND ELECTRIC-COMPONENT HANDLING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In reply to the August 19, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elects Group III, claims 11-18, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-18 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 13, 2004

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